GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3477
ANSWERED ON:07.12.2016
Gender Disparity in Use of Internet
Patel Shri Subhash

Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a wide gender gap in the use of internet in the country;

(b) if so, the details there of separately in rural and urban areas, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government has formulated any action plan to reduce the said gap and promote the use of the internet amongst rural youth; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

(a) and (b): As per a study conducted in 2015 by Internet & Mobile Association of India (IAMAI), there are 71% male Internet users and 29% female Internet users in India. The ratio of male to female in Urban India is 62:38 and that in Rural India is 88:12. The report mentions that among female Internet users, the highest growth has been among the non-working women, school-going girls and college-going girls.

(c) and (d): Government has funded various schemes /projects for the benefit of women in the area of IT training during past two years which includes the use of Internet. Some of the schemes/ projects are:

i. Under Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (DISHA) scheme of Government of India, more than 52 lakh candidates have been certified in digital literacy as on 30th November 2016. Out of these 52 lakh candidates, 26,68,764 candidates are women. The course content of the digital literacy includes the use of Internet.

ii. Under the Women Digital Literacy Programme (WDLP), the Government has trained 25,000 women beneficiaries on a Basic Computer Course to acquire digital literacy skills including use of Internet.

iii. Under IT for Masses programme of Government, various projects have been funded in the area of IT training including use of Internet in various states particularly in rural areas, covering 289,135 women across Delhi, UP, J&K, Haryana, Maharashtra, Kerala, Bihar, Odisha, MP and Himachal Pradesh.

****